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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/425,788 | 10/22/1999 | E. NOEL ABARRA | 0941.63365 | 1025 |

7590 02/27/2004

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EXAMINER

RICKMAN, HOLLY C

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1773

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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09425, 788

EXAMINER

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PAPER

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Commissioner for Patents

All claims are allowable. However, due to a potential interference, ex parte prosecution is **SUSPENDED FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS** from the date of this letter. Upon expiration of the period of suspension, applicant should make an inquiry as to the status of the application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Holly Rickman whose telephone number is (571) 272-1514. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul J. Thibodeau, can be reached on (571) 272-1516. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

hcr

February 20, 2004

Holly Rickman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1773